

Serial No. 10/532,651
Response to Office Action of December 20, 2006
Amendment dated January 19, 2007

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REMARKS:

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of their information disclosure statements submitted on June 5, 2006 and November 8, 2006 and for making the appropriate documents of record.

Applicants have amended dependent claim 2 solely to improve the consistency of the claim language. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants note that the Miyamoto reference (JP 2003237089) is not a valid 102(b) reference in light of Applicant's effective US filing date under 35 U.S.C. §365. In light of the forgoing, the Examiner's rejections of the claims must be withdrawn, and furthermore, the above-cited final office action must be withdrawn. In light of the absence of any further cited prior art, Applicants submit that claims 1 – 4 are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in light of the foregoing remarks and currently amended claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently stand in condition for allowance.

Date: 1/19/07

Respectfully Submitted,

(Reg. #37,607)

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